

MARVEL

JAMES PATTERSON

005

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT

HOUSER • FAILLA • ROSENBERG



MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- **FANG**, **NUDGE**, **IGGY**, **GASMAN**, AND **ANGEL** -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

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FINAL FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



MAXIMUM RIDE AND THE **FLOCK** HAD BEEN LIVING A PEACEFUL, IF NOMADIC, EXISTENCE, BELIEVING THE THREAT OF THE ITEX CORPORATION WAS BEHIND THEM. MAX AND **FANG** WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF A PERMANENT HOME, BUT THE REST OF THE FLOCK WAS KIDNAPPED IN THEIR ABSENCE. THE SEARCH FOR THEIR FAMILY LANDED MAX AND **FANG** AS PRISONERS, TOO, BUT THE WHOLE CREW ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF **ARI**, AN ERASER AND FORMER ENEMY OF THE FLOCK.

FREE ONCE MORE, THE FLOCK SPLIT INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH **FANG**, **IGGY** AND **GAZZY** TRAVELING TO SPREAD THE WORD OF THEIR ONGOING STRUGGLE VIA THE MEDIA, WHILE MAX, **ANGEL**, **NUDGE**, **TOTAL**, AND **ARI** TOOK THE FIGHT TO ITEX'S VARIOUS FACILITIES. SNEAKING IN TO THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS, MAX AND HER TEAM WERE SPOTTED BY ITEX'S DIRECTOR, WHO LAID A SHOCKING TRUTH ON MAX: THAT SHE IS MAX'S MOTHER!

NUDGE WAS ABLE TO GET A MESSAGE OUT TO **FANG** AND CREW, WHO NOW RACE TO THE RESCUE. MEANWHILE, SINCE MAX AND THE FLOCK REFUSED TO COOPERATE WITH THE DIRECTOR AND HER PARTNERS IN THE BY-HALF PLAN--ITEX'S SCHEME TO WIPE OUT HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION--ITEX HAS MOVED FORWARD INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF THEIR GENETIC ENGINEERING, EVIDENCED IN THEIR NEWEST SPECIMEN: **OMEGA**.

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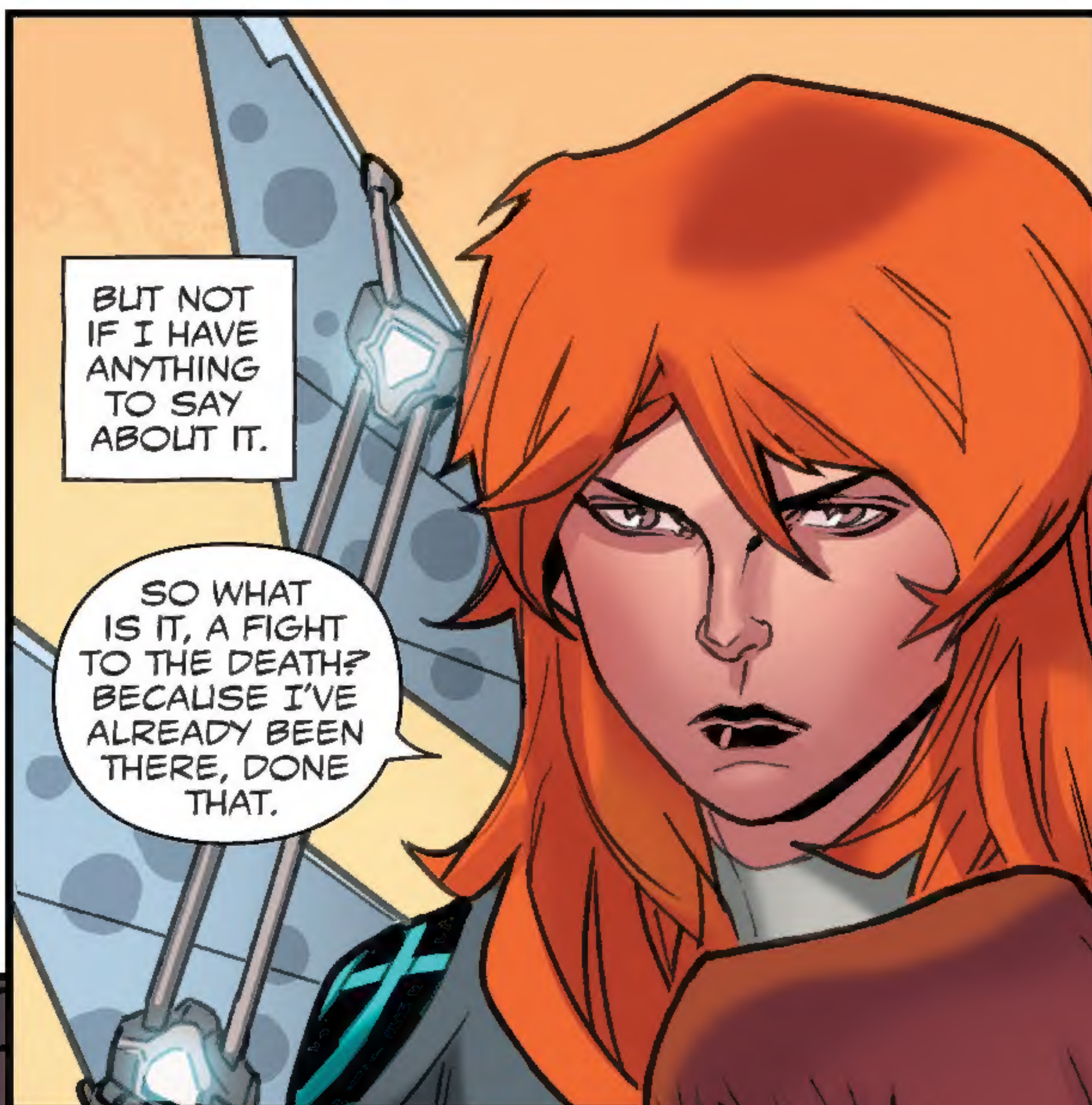
SO THIS IS
WHAT IT COMES
DOWN TO.



ME VERSUS THE LATEST
IN HYBRID TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE FATE OF
THE WORLD.



ITEX, THE CORPORATION
THAT MADE US ALL, WANTS
TO KILL OFF **HALF OF
HUMANITY**. REBUILD THE
WORLD IN THEIR OWN IMAGE.



BUT NOT
IF I HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY
ABOUT IT.

SO WHAT
IS IT, A FIGHT
TO THE DEATH?
BECAUSE I'VE
ALREADY BEEN
THERE, DONE
THAT.



HAHAHAHA
HAHA!



OMEGA'S SKILLS GO FAR BEYOND MERE COMBAT.

YOU WILL COMPETE IN A SERIES OF CONTESTS TO DEMONSTRATE OMEGA'S SUPERIORITY.



THE FATE OF THE WORLD IS AT STAKE AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PLAY **GAMES**?



WHAT ARE YOU--



...OH.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT TRYING TO ESCAPE.

CH-CLINK



IF YOU DO, YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY EXECUTED.



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

STRENGTH.

ALL OF THE MEMBERS
OF THE FLOCK ARE FAR
STRONGER THAN HUMANS.

BUT OMEGA ISN'T HUMAN.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY
MADE HIM OUT OF?

HM...MAYBE I DON'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT AFTER ALL.

...OR
MAYBE
I DO.

WINNER:
OMEGA!

SPEED.

THIS IS GETTING
RIDICULOUS.

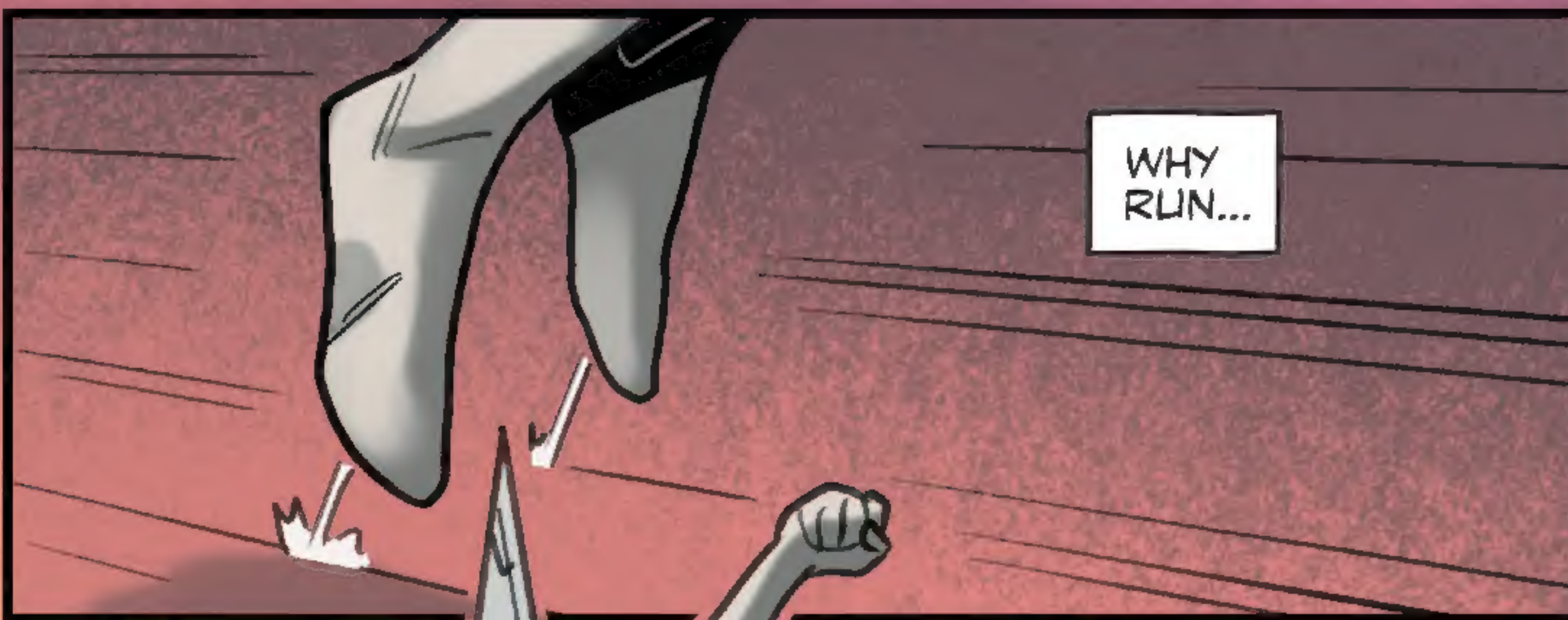


SURE, THE FLOCK IS FAST. BUT WE
DON'T EXACTLY TRAIN FOR RUNNING.

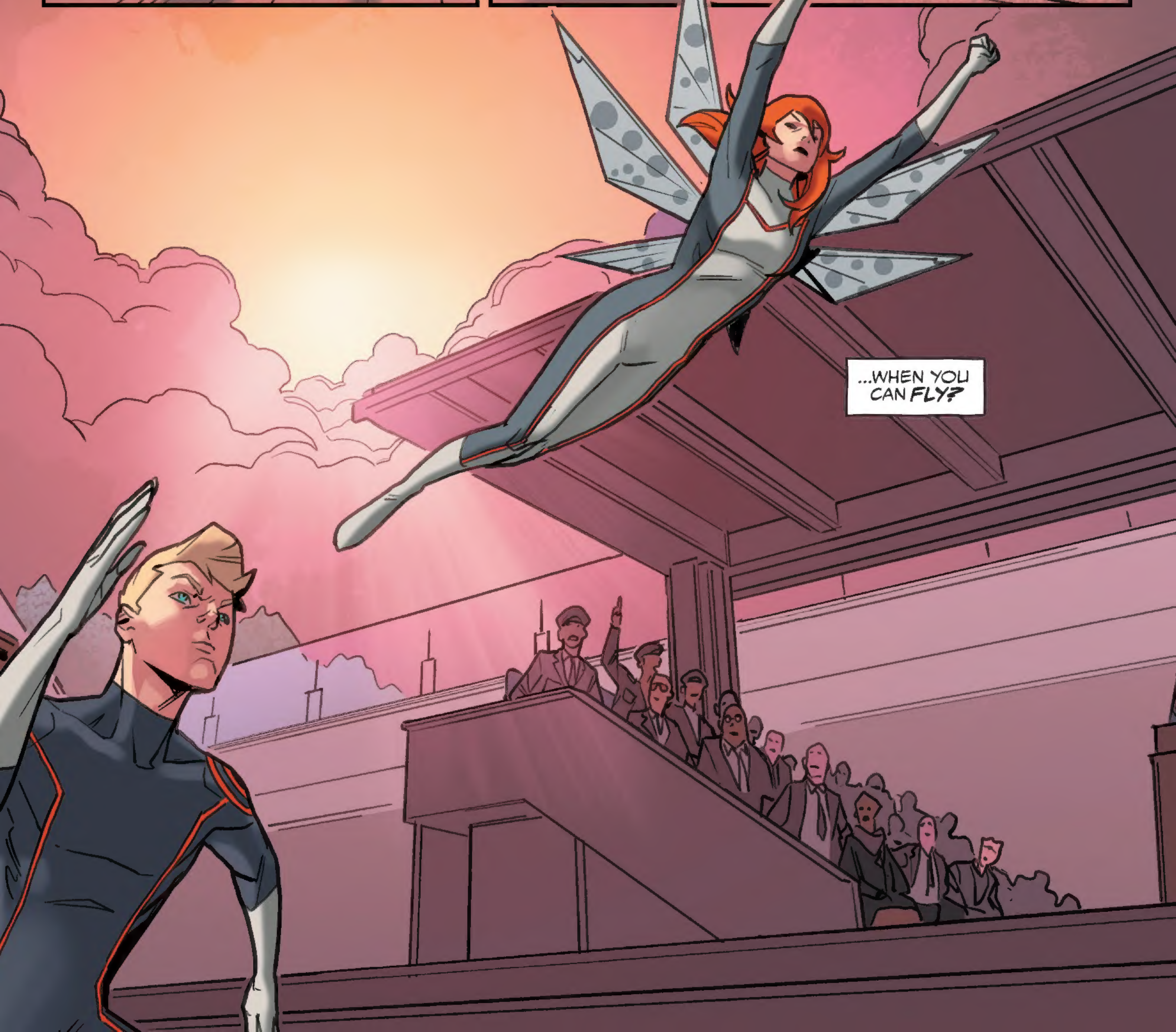


GO
MAX!

KICK
HIS STUPID
BUTT!



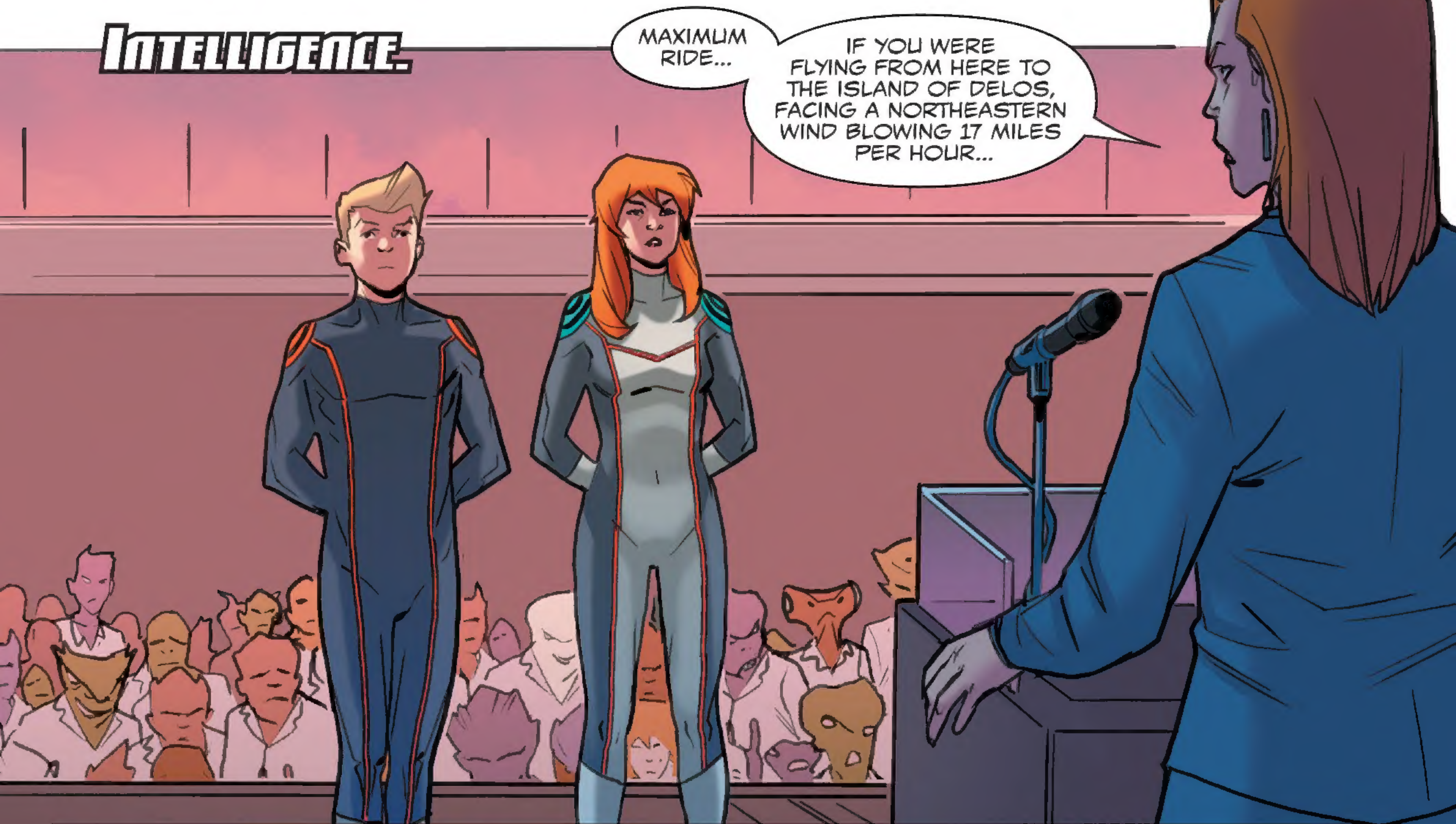
WHY
RUN...

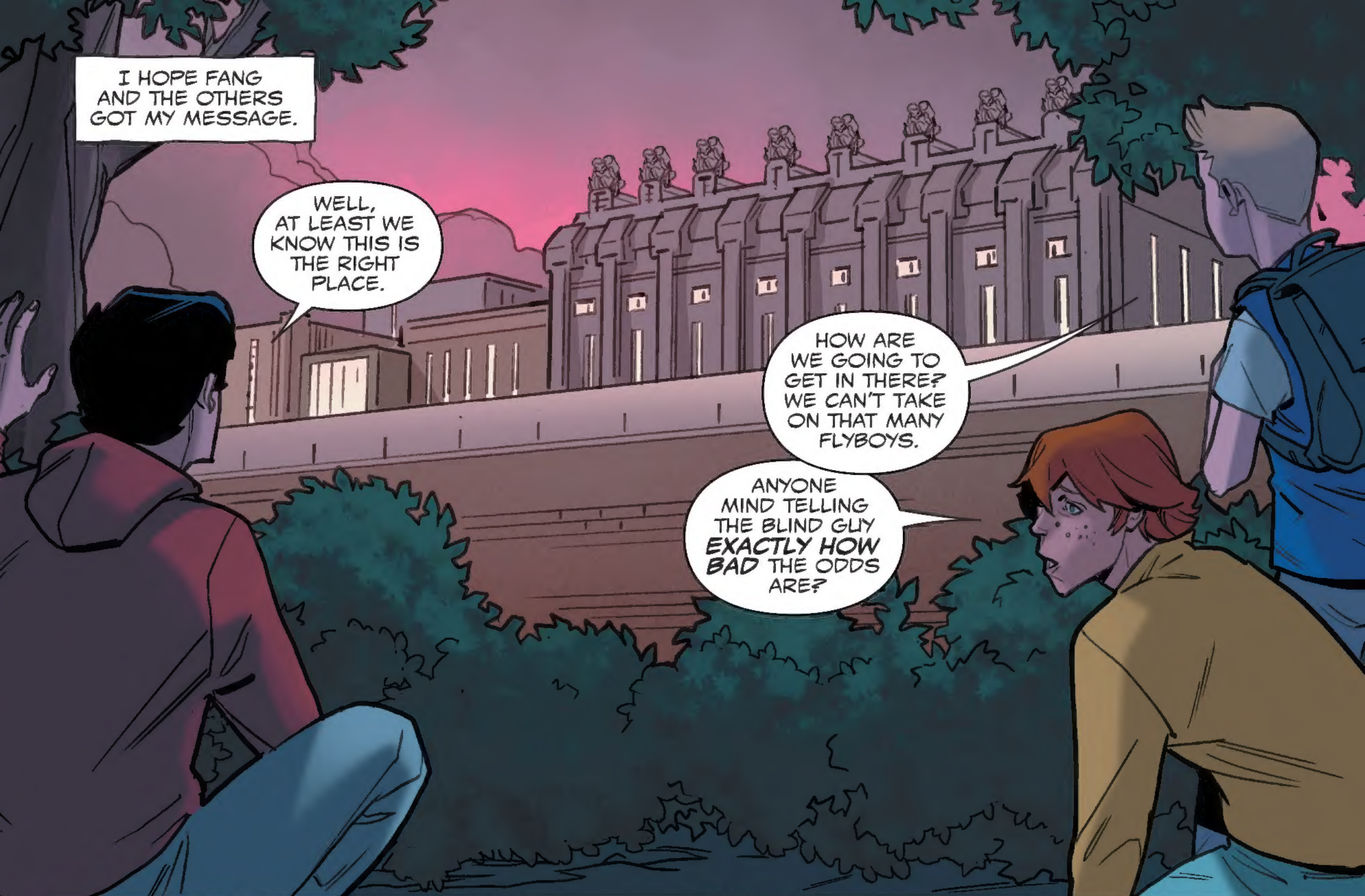


...WHEN YOU
CAN FLY?



Intelligence





I HOPE FANG
AND THE OTHERS
GOT MY MESSAGE.

WELL,
AT LEAST WE
KNOW THIS IS
THE RIGHT
PLACE.

HOW ARE
WE GOING TO
GET IN THERE?
WE CAN'T TAKE
ON THAT MANY
FLYBOYS.

ANYONE
MIND TELLING
THE BLIND GUY
EXACTLY HOW
BAD THE ODDS
ARE?



HEY, LOOKS LIKE WE
AREN'T THE ONLY ONES
WHO SHOWED UP
TONIGHT.

AGAIN WITH THE
LOOKING. SO
INSENSITIVE.

THAT CROWD IS
DEFINITELY HERE FOR
SOMETHING.



LET'S FIND
OUT WHAT
IT IS.



IT'S
HIM!

HE'S
REALLY
HERE!

FANG!

...EVEN
CUTER IN
PERSON...

FANG

TOLD
YOU COMING
WAS A GOOD
IDEA!



FANG!
WE SAW YOUR
VIDEO! WE'RE
HERE TO HELP
BRING ITX
DOWN!



WHAT
DO WE
DO?

I
WANT TO
HELP!

ARE YOU
HERE TO
DESTROY
ITX?

DO
YOU HAVE
A PLAN?

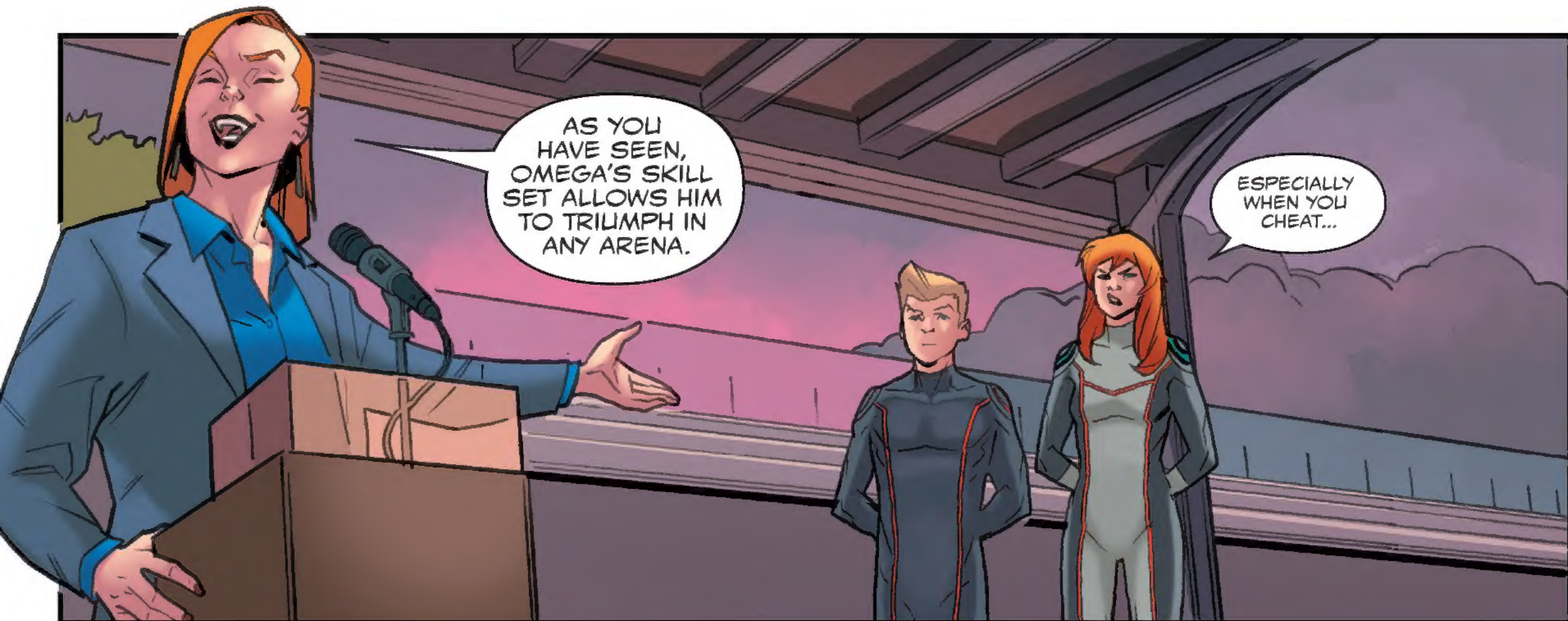


THANK YOU
FOR BEING OUT HERE.
IT MEANS A LOT THAT
YOU BELIEVED OUR
STORY. THAT YOU WANT
TO HELP US SAVE
THE WORLD.

MY FRIENDS
ARE INSIDE, AND
THEY NEED HELP.
WE **HAVE** TO FIND
A WAY IN. ANY
IDEAS?

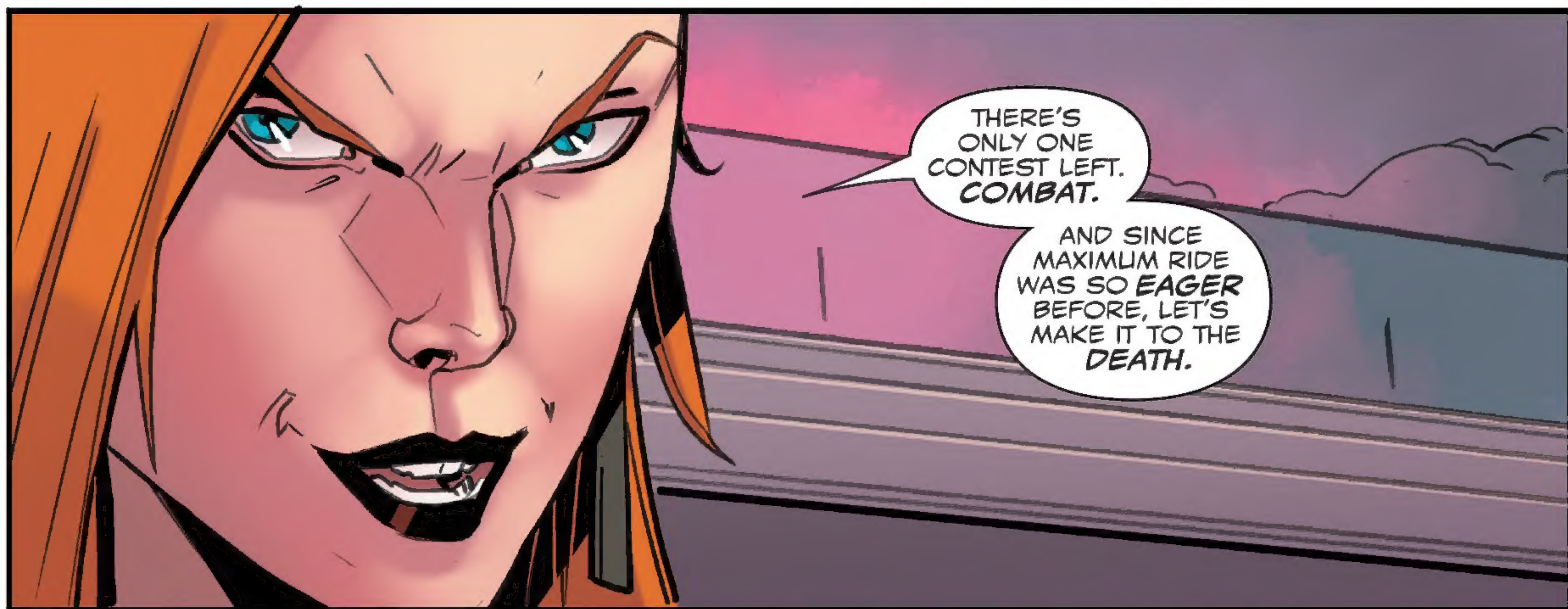


I **MAY** HAVE
SOMETHING...



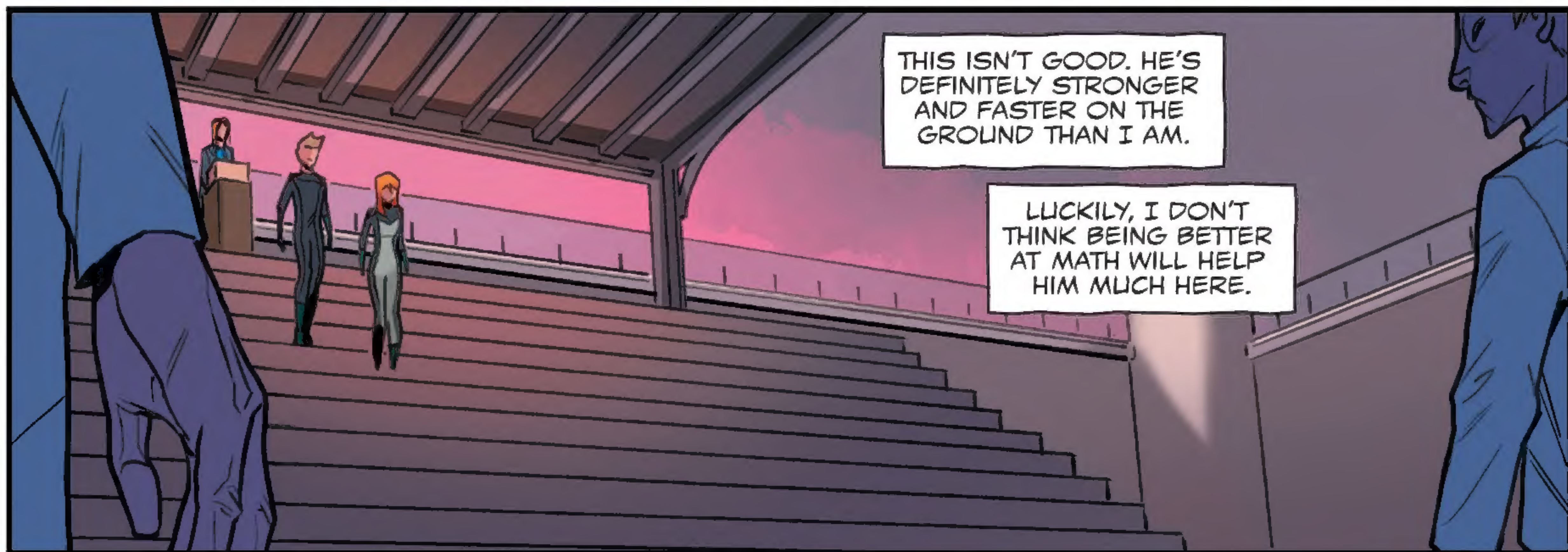
AS YOU
HAVE SEEN,
OMEGA'S SKILL
SET ALLOWS HIM
TO TRIUMPH IN
ANY ARENA.

ESPECIALLY
WHEN YOU
CHEAT...



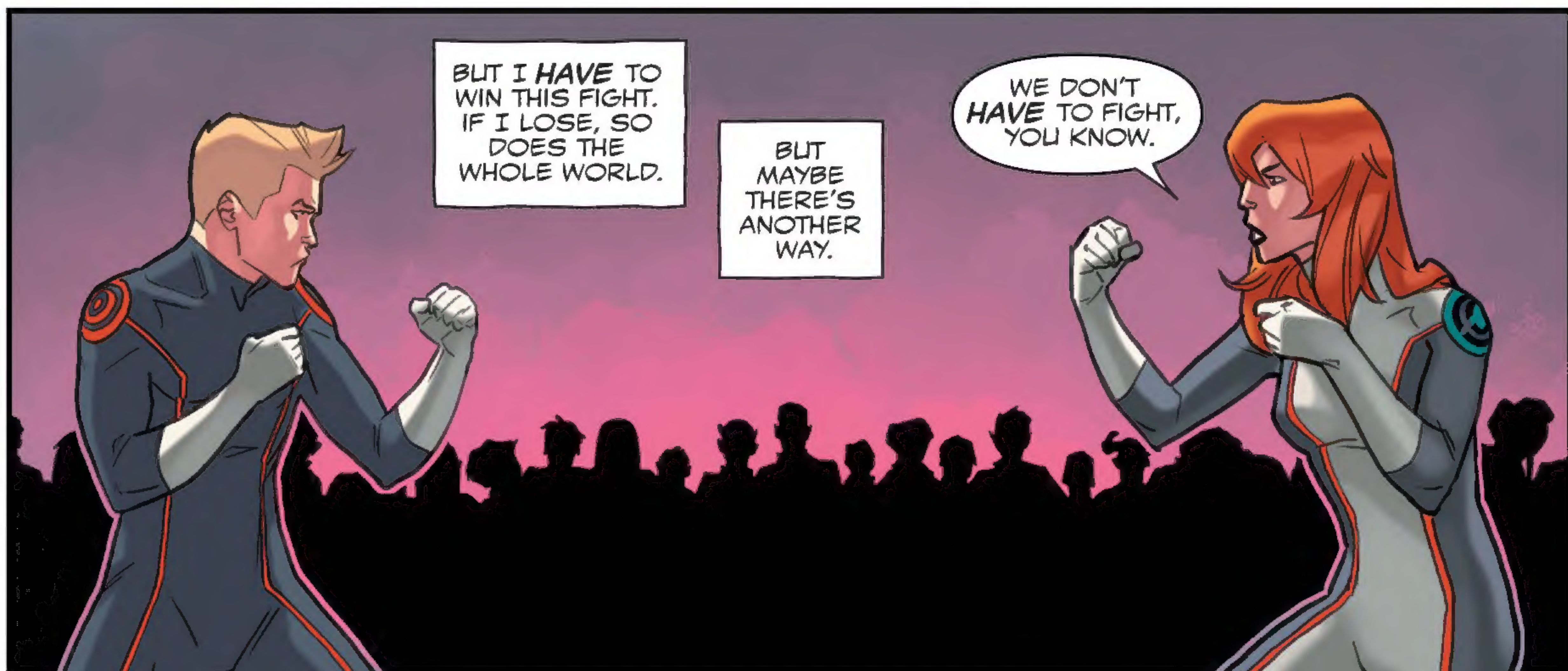
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
CONTEST LEFT.
COMBAT.

AND SINCE
MAXIMUM RIDE
WAS SO **EAGER**
BEFORE, LET'S
MAKE IT TO THE
DEATH.



THIS ISN'T GOOD. HE'S
DEFINITELY STRONGER
AND FASTER ON THE
GROUND THAN I AM.

LUCKILY, I DON'T
THINK BEING BETTER
AT MATH WILL HELP
HIM MUCH HERE.



BUT I **HAVE** TO
WIN THIS FIGHT.
IF I LOSE, SO
DOES THE
WHOLE WORLD.

BUT
MAYBE
THERE'S
ANOTHER
WAY.

WE DON'T
HAVE TO FIGHT,
YOU KNOW.



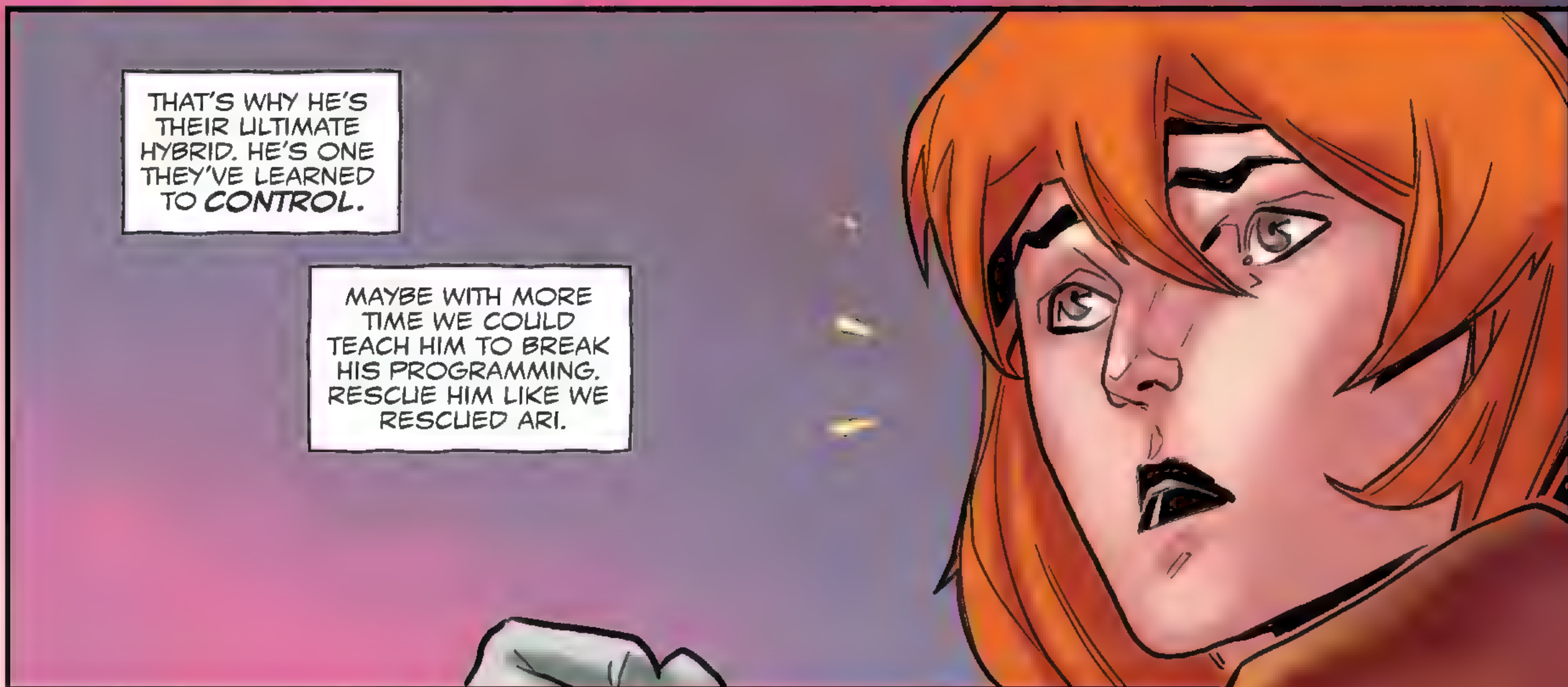
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
SHE TOLD US TO FIGHT.
WE MUST FIGHT.



WHAT DOES IT MATTER
WHAT SHE TOLD US?
YOU'RE A **PERSON**.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
BE HER WEAPON.
YOU CAN CHOOSE
NOT TO OBEY HER OR
ITEX. MY FRIENDS AND
I DO IT ALL THE
TIME.



I...I
DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO NOT
OBEY.



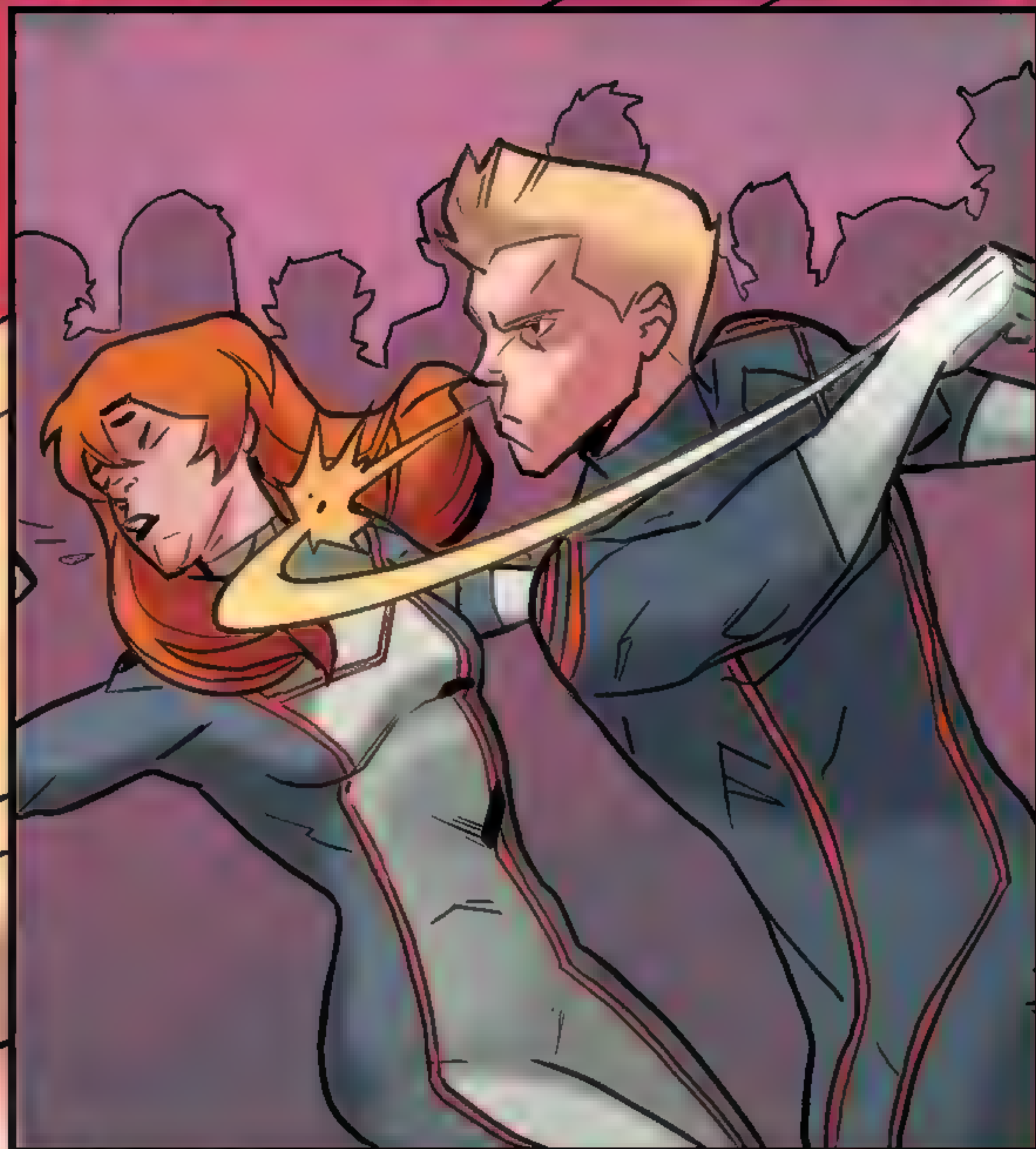
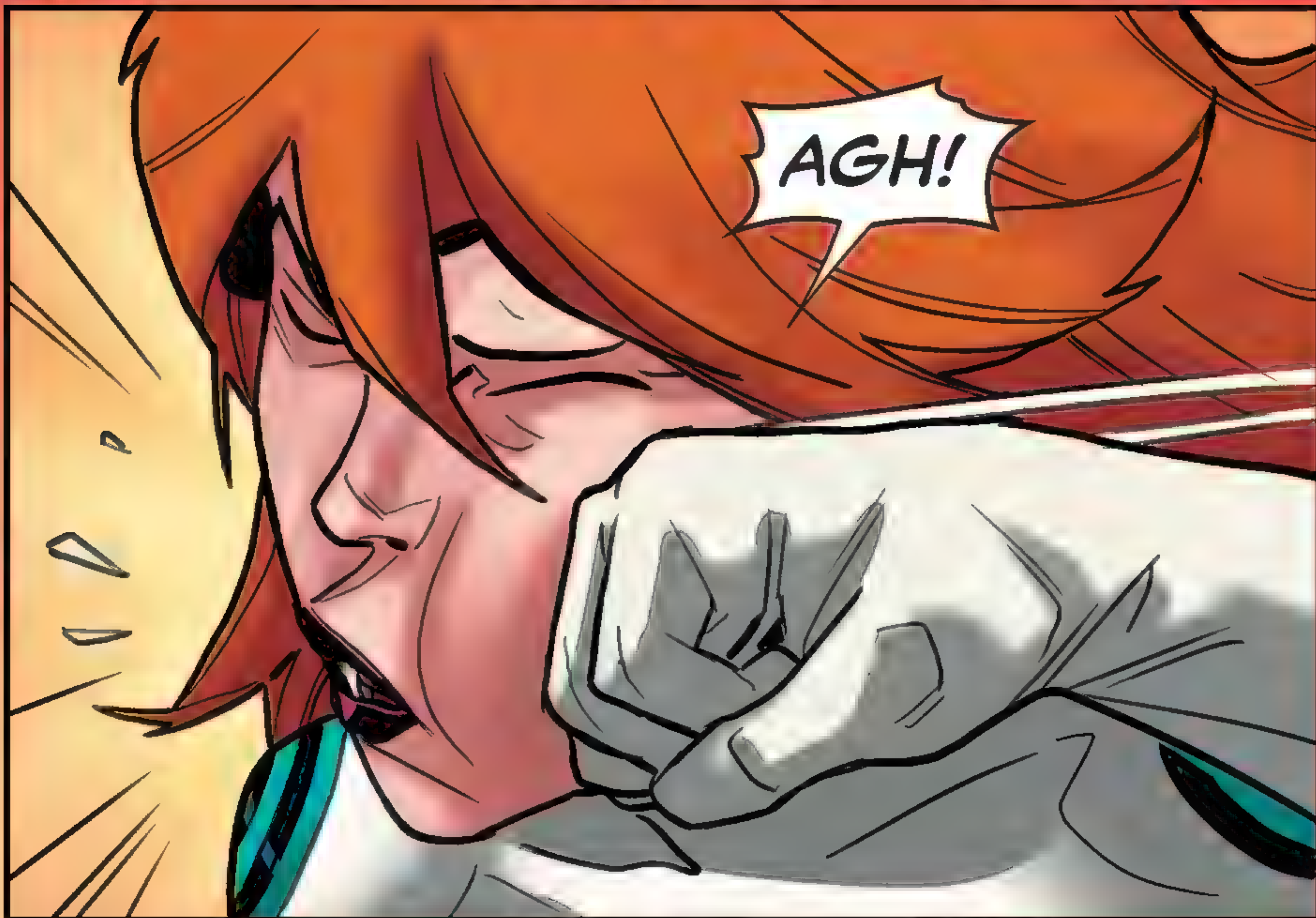
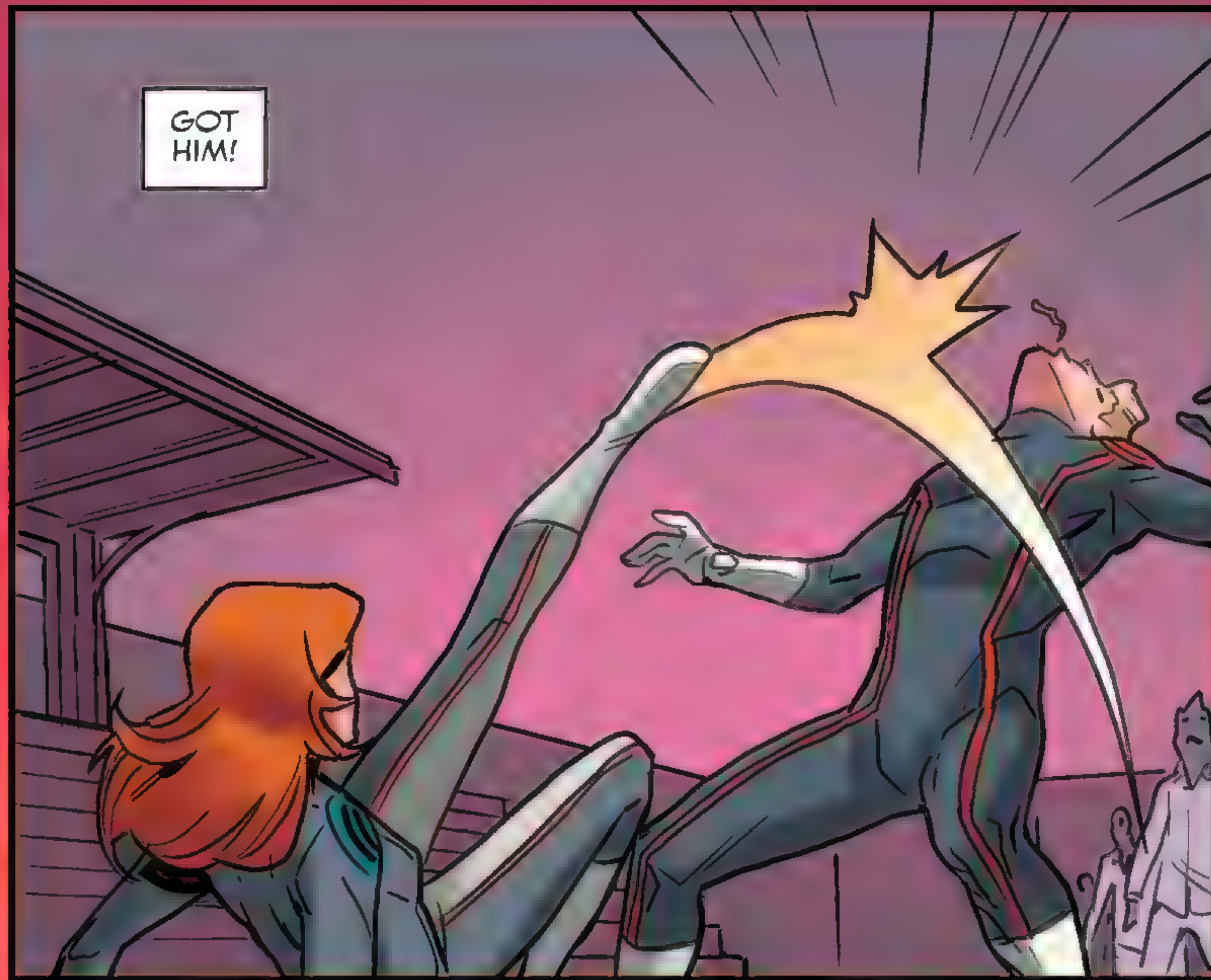
THAT'S WHY HE'S
THEIR ULTIMATE
HYBRID. HE'S ONE
THEY'VE LEARNED
TO **CONTROL**.

MAYBE WITH MORE
TIME WE COULD
TEACH HIM TO BREAK
HIS PROGRAMMING.
RESCUE HIM LIKE WE
RESCUED ARI.



I HAVE
TO KILL
YOU.

BUT THE WORLD
DOESN'T HAVE TIME,
AND NEITHER DO I.







ARI...HIS
EXPIRATION
DATE...

ARI!!



I DIDN'T
THINK...

JEB LET THEM
DO THIS TO ARI.
HIS OWN SON.



I DIDN'T
THINK HE
CARED
ENOUGH
TO CRY.

...I'M
SORRY,
JEB.

I'M GLAD
HE...HE WAS
ABLE TO...

MAX.
YOU HAVE TO
FINISH THIS
FIGHT WITH
OMEGA.



I DON'T
KNOW IF
I CAN BEAT
HIM.

THE WHOLE
WORLD NEEDS ME
TO, BUT HE'S TOO
STRONG...

EVERYONE
HAS A
WEAKNESS,
MAX.

I KNOW
YOU'RE THE VOICE
IN MY HEAD, JEB.
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO PRETEND.



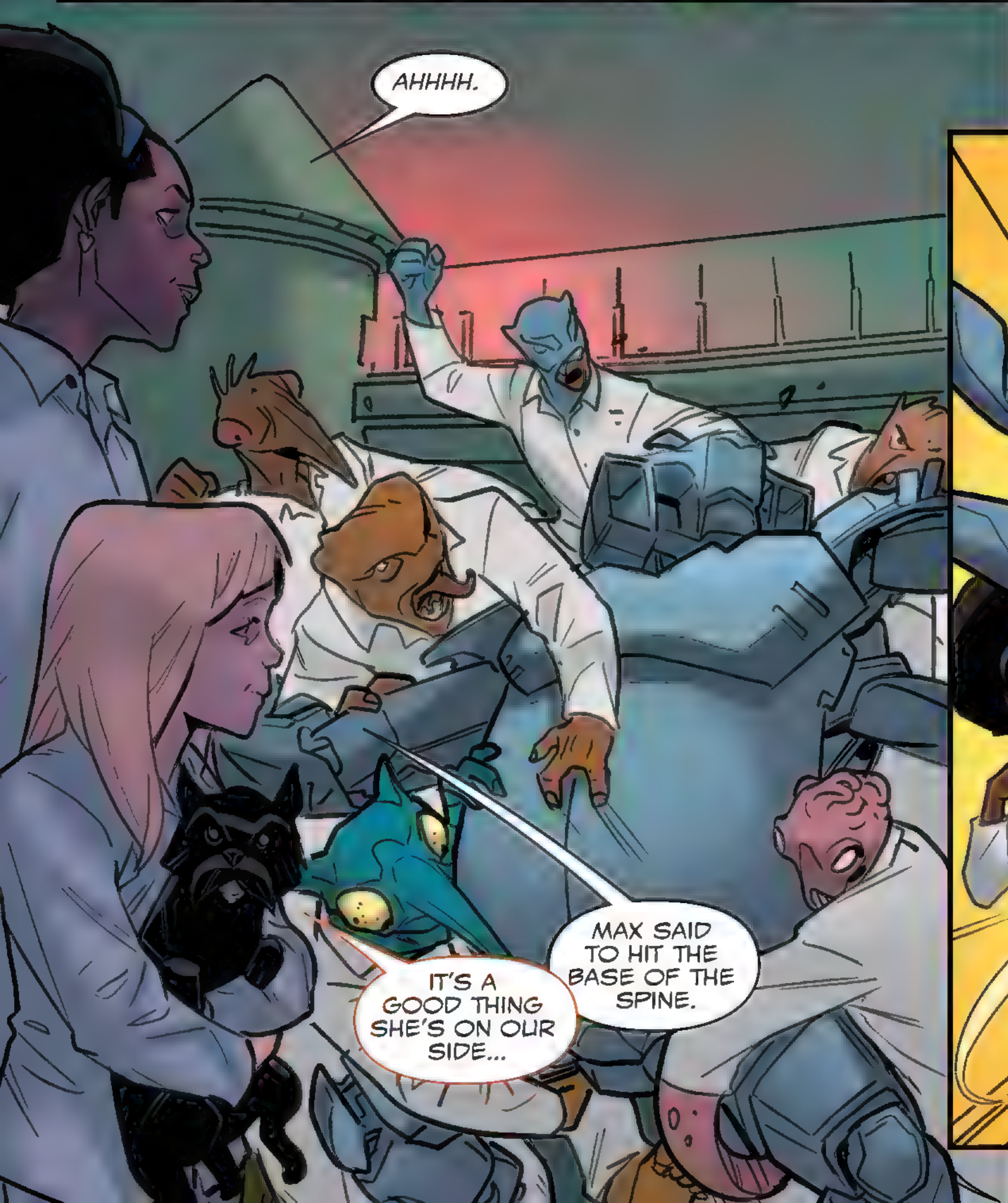
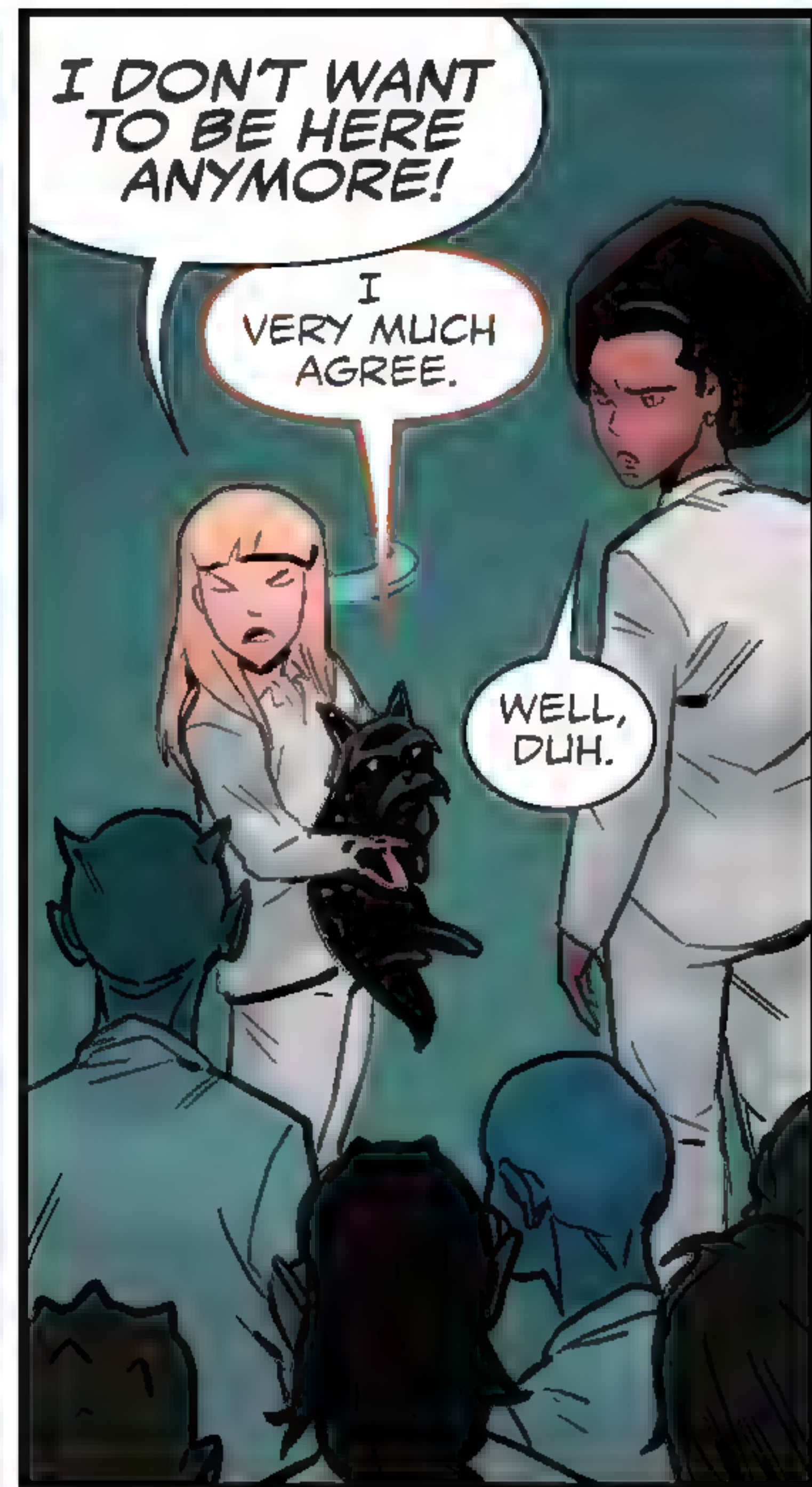
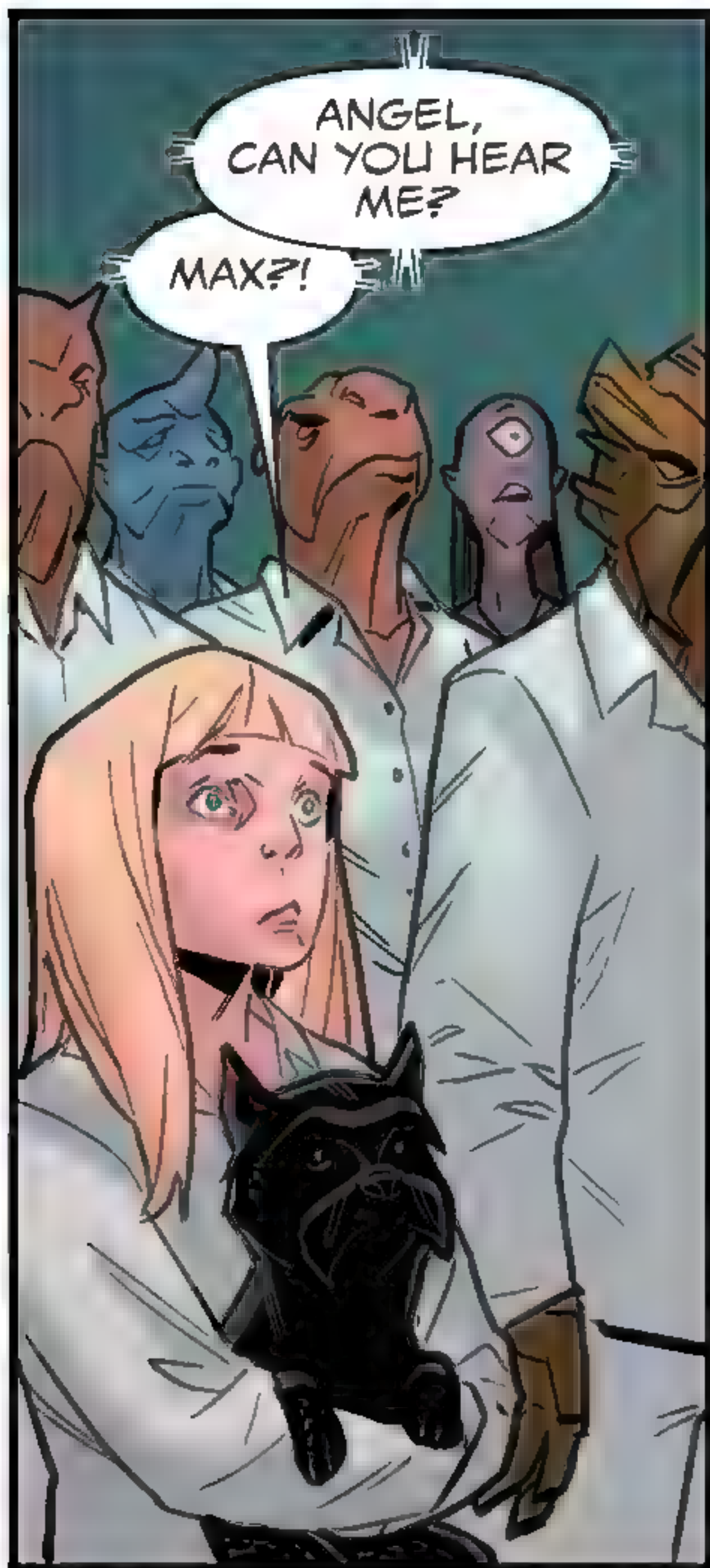
BUT THIS WAY,
I CAN TELL YOU
WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW WITHOUT THE
DIRECTOR KNOWING.

THE ROBOTIC
FLYBOYS CAN BE
DISABLED IF YOU
STRIKE THEM
HARD ENOUGH
AT THE BASE
OF THE SPINE.



I MADE SURE OMEGA CAN'T
TRACK FAST MOVEMENTS.
A BUILT-IN FLAW THAT
PLAYS TO YOUR POWERS.

AND THE
DIRECTOR--SHE
UNDERESTIMATES
YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS. PROVE
HER WRONG.





THAT SHOULD KEEP
HER ROBOT ARMY
BUSY. AND NOW FOR
HER LITTLE TOY.



HOW
ARE...



JEB'S RIGHT. AT
TURBO SPEED, HE
CAN'T TRACK ME.

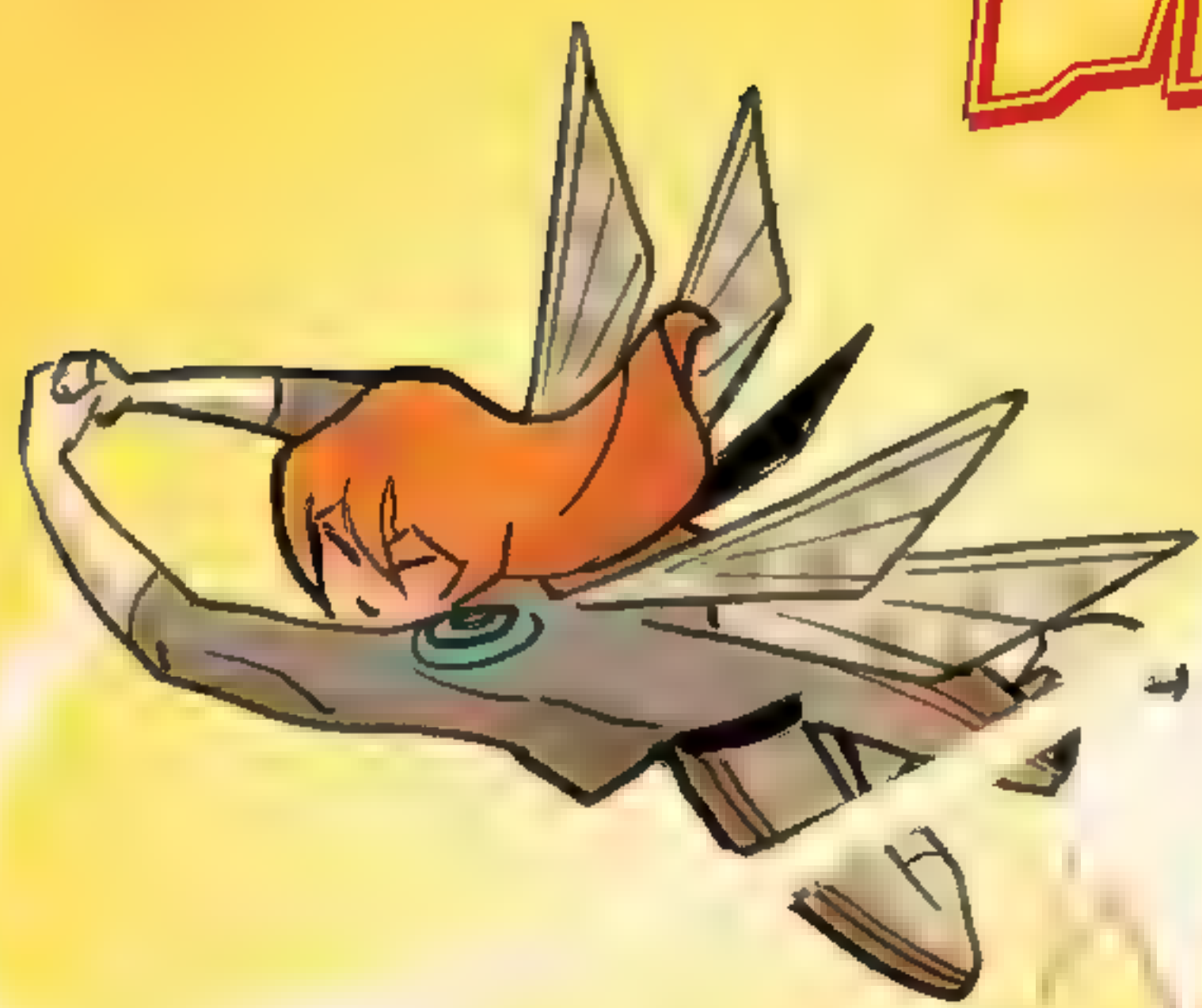


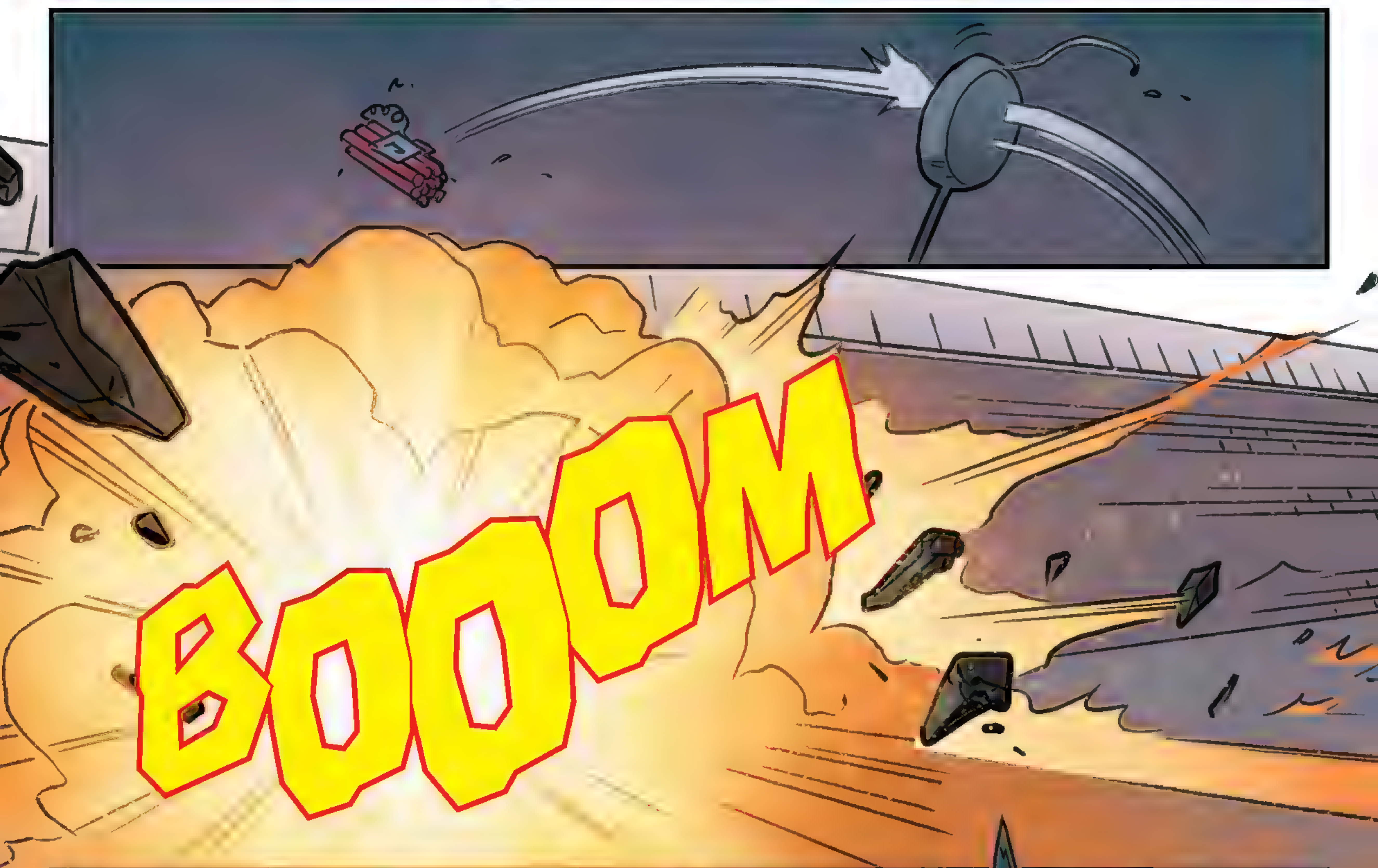
I GOT
HIM.



WHERE
ARE YOU?!

WHAP







OH, NO. YOU AND I NEED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION.



LET ME GO!

ANSWER ME ONE QUESTION, AND MAYBE I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE GROUND BEFORE MY GRIP GETS SLIPPERY.



WHO IS MY MOTHER? MY **REAL** MOTHER.

...
...DR. VALENCIA MARTINEZ...



NOW TAKE ME DOWN THIS INSTANT!

YOU'VE WON, MAX. YOU DON'T NEED TO KILL HER.

DON'T WORRY, JEB.



ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED TODAY.

...AND THANK YOU FOR TELLING THE TRUTH. ABOUT MY MOM.



IN THE END, FANG AND I DIDN'T TALK MUCH ABOUT THE WHOLE "GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS" THING. WE DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO.

HE DID TELL JEB HE WAS SORRY ABOUT ARI, THOUGH. THAT'S SOMETHING.



IT'S CRAZY TO THINK THIS COULD ALL BE OVER NOW. RUNNING FOR OUR LIVES. TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY WE WERE MADE.

WE MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE A HOME TO GO TO.

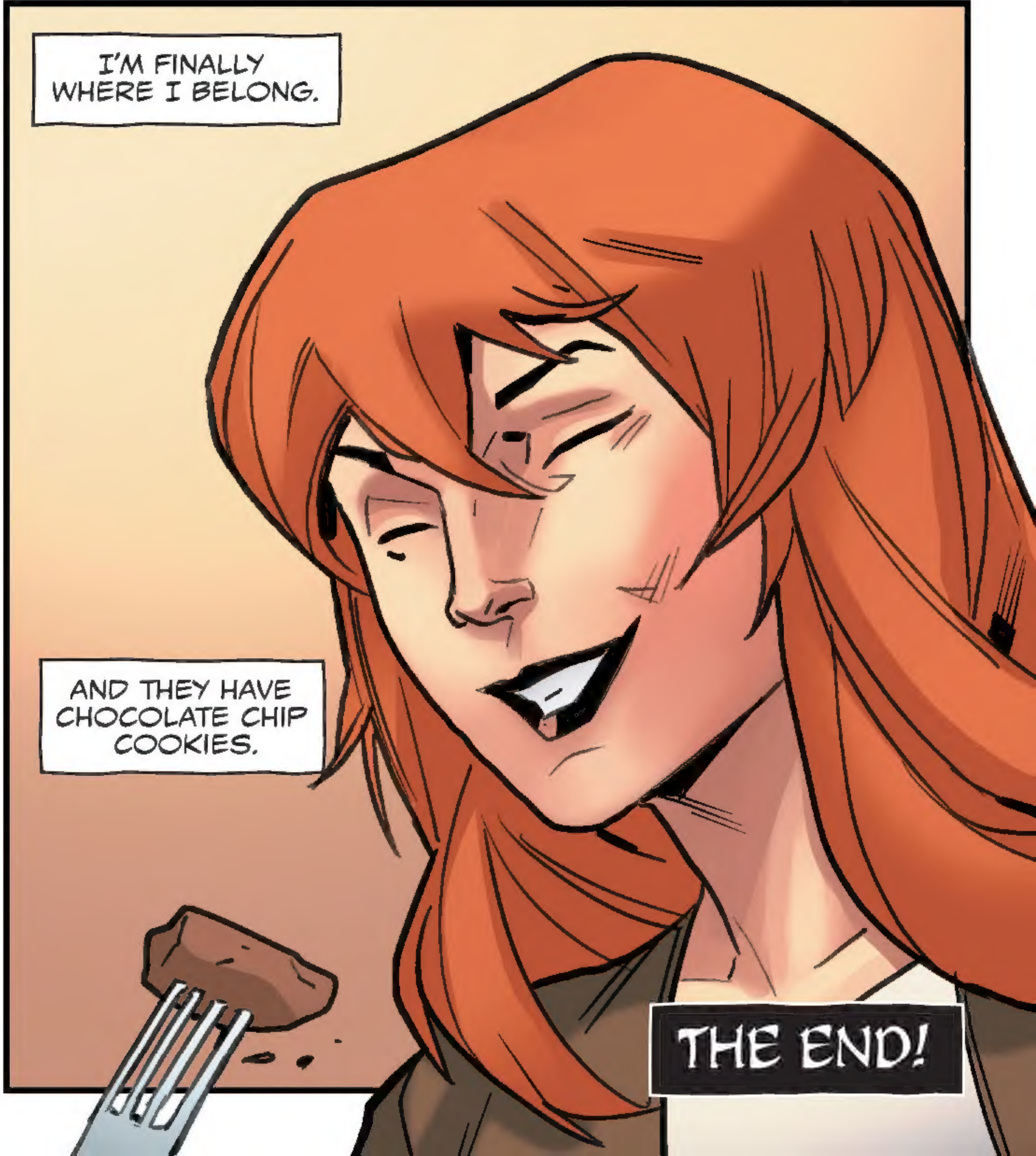


MORE THAN A HOME. A FAMILY.



BOTH THE FAMILY I MADE AND THE FAMILY I FOUND.

AND MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER AFTER ALL.



THE END!

